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AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE MID-TERM
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s
Organizational session
New York, 20 June 1996

REPORT OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 50/160 of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene an organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda to consider and adopt the necessary arrangements for its work.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Ad Hoc Committee held an organizational session, comprising one meeting, at Headquarters on 20 June 1996.

3. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Alex Reyn, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, in his capacity as Vice-President of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Chairperson read a message from the President of the General Assembly. Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, made a statement. Statements were also made by the Chairman of the African Group, Mr. Machirenyika Tabias Mapurenga (Zimbabwe), and Mr. Alberto Colella (Italy) on behalf of the European Union.

B. Attendance

4. The following Member States were represented:

Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Austria
Belgium
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Czech Republic
Denmark
Djibouti
Egypt
El Salvador
Finland
France
Gabon
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guyana
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Liberia
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Rwanda
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Zimbabwe

5. The following intergovernmental organization participated as an observer: Organization of African Unity (OAU).

6. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented: Africa I Division, Department of Political Affairs; Africa Recovery Unit, Department of Public Information; the United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service; Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); International Labour Organization (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

7. The following non-governmental organization participated as an observer: Earth Times.

C. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Ad Hoc Committee adopted the following agenda for its organizational session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Opening statements.

4. Election of the Bureau:

(a) Election of the Chairman;

(b) Election of other members of the Bureau.

5. Organization of work.

6. Closing remarks.

D. Election of the Bureau

9. The Ad Hoc Committee elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Hisashi OWADA (Japan)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Alex REYN (Belgium)
Mr. Denis DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon)
Mr. Samuel R. INSANALLY (Guyana)

10. The Ad Hoc Committee decided to defer the election of Rapporteur to its forthcoming session in September 1996.

E. Organization of work

Working groups

11. The Ad Hoc Committee decided to establish the following two working groups:

(a) Working Group I on the assessment of national efforts based on relevant inputs from African countries;

(b) Working Group II on the response of the international community including the United Nations system, and the necessary measures to accelerate and improve the implementation of the New Agenda.

Documentation

12. The Ad Hoc Committee took note of the documentation that would be made available for the conduct of the mid-term review. It would include a report of the Secretary-General, a major component of which would be submitted by ECA regarding actions taken and progress achieved by African countries in the implementation of the New Agenda, and inputs from members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development. The documentation would also include an assessment and recommendations by OAU on the implementation of the New Agenda. The Ad Hoc Committee strongly recommended that the documents be made available in all languages by 31 July 1996.

13. Additional background/information documents would also be made available to the Ad Hoc Committee on the seminar on the implementation of the New Agenda, to

be held at Tokyo on 27 and 28 August 1996, on the emerging role of non-governmental organizations in African sustainable development, and on resource requirements for the full implementation of the New Agenda.

Participation of non-governmental organizations

14. The Ad Hoc Committee decided to grant maximum participation to non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations that had been contributing to the implementation of the New Agenda, in conformity with established rules and accepted practices. In particular, the non-governmental organizations would be allowed to be present in formal meetings, but would not be engaged in the negotiating process. The Secretariat would maintain liaison with the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee on that matter.

Date of the mid-term review

15. The Ad Hoc Committee decided to conduct the mid-term review starting from 16 September 1996. To that end, it decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session that the Ad Hoc Committee meet during the Assembly's fifty-first session and, for that purpose, to recommend that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee for the period set out in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 50/160 be extended.